

INAUGURATION OF THE LONDON COAL EXCHANGE.

On Tuesday last crowds filled the streets in the neighbourhood of the Thames, obstructed the bridges, and lined the river, to see her Majesty and Prince Albert pass along "the silent highway," to open the new edifice which has been erected in Thames-street for the purposes of the coasting trade. The Queen was unable to be present, but her illustrious consort brought the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal. Many, many thousands of people were out, so fond of sights and so loyal are we English; and every where such a reception was given as must have delighted those for whom the sweet voices were raised. The building we have already described and illustrated, both externally and internally; and we have commended its architect for the invention, novel applications, and suggestive decorations which it displays.

"To meet the demands of a rapid extension in the great element of British commerce—the coasting trade, the nursery of seamen and of our commercial marine," said the Recorder, in his address to the Prince, "this capacious building, the Coal Exchange, chiefly constructed of iron, at once light and durable, has been erected. When with the purposes of this Exchange are associated the creation and increase of commerce and manufactures, and the naval superiority of this kingdom,—when the essential article of coal ministers by appliances innumerable to the wants and prosperity of millions, illuminates our houses, streets, and manufactories,—when every metal at the forge is obedient to the fire it feeds, whilst it commands as its agent and its instrument the mighty power of steam,—it became the wisdom, and accorded with the enlightened beneficence of her Majesty the Queen, to regard this edifice with the favour and consideration ever graciously extended by her Majesty to objects of national importance."

It is not our purpose to describe the ceremony; to speak of the glittering multitude which filled the Exchange and its galleries; clad in robes and uniforms of every hue; the profuse hospitality of the corporation; how that Mr. Bunning, when presented to the Prince, was justly cheered; and how Sir James Duke, Knight, the Lord Mayor, is to be created a baronet. We have but to record the event and its most brilliant accomplishment, adding, however, a note of the curious circumstance (forced on us by two strong letters on the subject), that the coal factors had nothing to do with the ceremony, and scarcely obtained the means of being present.

We congratulate Mr. Bunning on a fortunate concurrence of circumstances, which will serve to connect his name lastingly with the city of London.†

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the opening meeting, held Friday, Oct. 26th, Mr. Pettigrew, treasurer, presided, and after briefly congratulating the members on the resumption of the public meetings, read a paper from the president, Lord Albert Denison, detailing the opening and contents of two barrows, in the neighbourhood of Scarborough. The first, called Way Hagg, was opened in the autumn of 1848; its diameter was 36 yards, and depth 8 feet, with a slight depression on the top. The digging was commenced on the north side; and at about 18 inches from the surface and 4 feet from the top (on the slope) was discovered a small urn containing wood ashes. Eight or ten feet nearer the centre four stones were discovered, one having three holes of unequal size worked on its surface, another five holes, a third four holes, and the fourth thirteen holes. These stones varied in length from 33 to 16 inches. Upon removing these, an urn 15 inches in height was exposed to view, standing upon two large stones, and containing calcined bones, flint arrow-heads,

bone pins, and the bones of a small animal which had been burnt with the body. The second, Ravenhill tumulus, was opened 21st August, 1849, and was 42 feet in diameter and 8 feet deep. The cutting was made on the south side. After removing the sandy earth on the surface, a wall of large stones was cut through. Two stones, one with five holes and the other two, were discovered; and immediately afterward an urn 6½ inches high. A little to the left of this was found a small vessel embedded in wood ashes, calcined bones, and earth.

Another investigation, on 31st August, proved the stone wall to exist on the east side, and apparently encircling the whole mound. The paper was followed by some observations from Messrs. Saul and Keet, on the stones with holes worked on their surface, and Dr. Bell remarked, that they resembled druidical stones, called in Germany porringers stones.

Mr. Planché read an interesting paper on the "Effigy of a Lady in Worcester Cathedral," which had been alternately appropriated, to the wife of William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, temp. Edward III.; to a countess of Warren and Surrey; to Andela, wife of John de Warren, a natural son of the sixth earl; and to Maude d'Evereux, the sister of Giffard, Bishop of Worcester. Mr. Planché disproved every one of these assertions, and suggested, that the effigy was that of Maude Longespee, titular countess of Salisbury, being Lady de Clifford, of Corham, in her own right; who, according to the annals of Worcester, was buried in the cathedral in 1301, having been then removed from some other edifice, 18 years after her death. She was the grand-daughter of Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, and of King John, mother of Margaret de Lacy, countess of Lincoln; and had to her second husband John, Lord Giffard, of Brimsfield, so that the magnificence of her monument was due to her rank, and its position, to her relationship by blood to King John, and by marriage to Bishop Giffard.

Mr. Planché prefaced his paper by some strong and proper remarks on the devastation that had been committed in our cathedrals, by their former soi-disant conservators; and particularly in that of Worcester, in which, with the exception of Prince Arthur's monument, there was scarcely a mediæval tomb or effigy that could be positively identified.

Mr. Godwin, as an evidence that in early times they had treated the monuments of their progenitors as badly as had been done more recently, mentioned the discovery, a few weeks ago, of a carved monumental slab, of the thirteenth century, under one of the buttresses of the north porch of Redcliffe church, for which it had been made to serve as a foundation.*

Mr. White exhibited the rubbing of a brass from St. Michael's Church, near St. Alban's. The figures are those of a civilian and his wife, John and Maude Pecok. The rubbing was taken by the son of the clerk, during the few hours required to repair the flooring of a pew, and it was exhibited to shew, that this and other such societies are producing much good, by giving those engaged in our churches a taste for the antiquities contained in them, and a desire to preserve, and even illustrate such things when an opportunity offers. This brass is now removed from sight by the new flooring.—Mr. Waller said, he believed he had a rubbing of the inscription only. He considered the brass early and interesting, and one he had long wished to see.—Mr. H. W. Rolfe exhibited rubbings of brasses in the church of Boughton Malherb, in Kent, belonging to the family of Wotton; and Mr. Planché exhibited a cast of the seal of John-de-Soort, Earl of Chester.

ENTHUSIASM.—We are told that the infant daughter of a gentleman employed at the works of the Britannia-bridge was taken to the Britannia rock, the other day, in the middle of the effluvia, where she was christened Britannia Ann Stephenson, in compliment of the bridge and the engineer. We remember a worthy builder, who, having erected a chain-bridge some ten years ago, with similar feeling, but less tact, christened his little daughter Suspension Maria.

* The slab shows a cross occupying the centre, with two sculptured heads projecting from the plain face of the stone, one over each arm of the cross.

CHURCH BUILDING NEWS.

THE foundation stone of the new chapel of the Wesleyans at Southampton was laid in East-street, on Wednesday in last week, by the Mayor, accompanied to the site by a large proportion of the Town Council and bailiffs—but not in robes of office as was intended, that being an infraction of the old statute there-
anent:—at least it was held by the counsel applied to (Mr. Barstow), that "in strictness the letter of the law would be violated," although the main object was the mere laying of a stone, and not public worship, that being in this case but an accessory. The architect is Mr. James Wilson. His design is in the Gothic manner. There will be a centre window over the door-way, flanked by two towers and pinnacles, and two side windows, with buttresses and pinnacles surmounting them at the extremities of the front. The area of the chapel will be 45 feet by 72 feet in the clear, its superficial extent being 116 square feet more than any public room in the town. There will be 300 free sittings in the body of the chapel, and, in addition, a second gallery, which will contain 200. Underneath the chapel there will be a school-room capable of accommodating 700 children. The cost of erection is estimated at 3,500*l.*, or with site, &c., 5,300*l.* Of this the mayor has presented 400*l.*, and Mr. W. Betts 700*l.*—deficiency still 2,000*l.* odd. We hope it will be better than one by the same architect in St. John's-square, Clerkenwell.—The foundation stone of a Baptist chapel was laid in Wadham-street, Weston-super-Mare, on Tuesday week.—It is intended to take down a portion of the parish church of Bremhill, Wilts, and rebuild the same, and also reseal the church.—Mr. Warneford has placed in the hands of the bishop of the diocese of Gloucester and Bristol another 1,000*l.* to promote the building of parsonage houses in benefices of small value at present without them.—A little chapel has been built at the Bath united hospital, from a design supplied by Messrs. Manners and Gill. It is to be provided with hot air pipes, and will cost in all 340*l.*—The church of St. Augustine, Bristol, has been re-opened after being some weeks under process of restoration. The side galleries have been removed and the seats re-arranged. The tradesmen employed were—Mr. C. Williams, Hanover-street, mason; Messrs. Naylor and Heaven, Park-row, painters; and Mr. Martin, Orchard-street, carpenter.—The foundation stone of a Baptist chapel was to be laid at George's-place, Leeds, on 1st inst.—The church of All Saints, Monkwearmouth, was consecrated on Tuesday week.—A tower, 76 feet high, with spire and vane, has recently been erected at Low-wood, Windermere, and a clock with two dials placed in it. We don't exactly know, however, whether this comes properly under head of church building news: perhaps the church is expected to follow.—During the relaying of the floor of the Abbey Church of Dunfermline, the workmen lately came upon two massive stone coffins lying side by side, and very near the spot where "the rude awtair" of the original abbey stood. The coffins were hollowed out of one single block each, with a circular space for the head. In one was found a body completely cased in leather: the other was full of dust. The leather casing was in excellent preservation, but the body within completely gone, scarcely a little bone left. The casing was found to have been carefully laced down the back and round the soles of the feet.

BRADFORD UNION COMPETITION.—Wishing to compete for the new union work-house for the Bradford union, I applied for the plan and instructions to architects, which have been obligingly forwarded to me by the clerk. In the concluding clause is the following notice—"The guardians do not pledge themselves to employ the architect whose plans are preferred; but in case of his not being employed in the direction of the work, a premium of 30*l.* will be given for the plans, which will be the property of the guardians." Now, Sir, is not this as good as telling the successful competitor that however excellent his plan may be, the value placed upon the same is 30*l.*, a sum far below the actual cost that must be incurred by each party who thinks of competing?—FRED. AND JUSTICE.

* The increase which has taken place in the coal trade is extraordinary. We are told that in 1798 about 600 ships suffered in the supply and demand of London, and that in 1845, 4,836 cargoes were required, containing about 1,350,000 tons; while last year (1848), 8,717 ships made 12,367 voyages, and conveyed 3,418,960 tons!

† In the previous week the foundation of the new Billingsgate Market (under the same architect) was laid. It includes an architectural frontage of 172 feet (we are told), extending from the Custom House quay to Nicholson's Wharf.